

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01700 161726Z

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SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF PSOE LEADER FELIPE GONZALES

REF: LISBON 1665 (DTG 151725Z MAR 76)

SUMMARY: WHILE IN PORTUGAL ATTENDING THE MAR 13-14 MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS, SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) SECRETARY-GENERAL FELIPE GONZALEZ WAS A FOCAL POINT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION. THIS CABLE REPORTS THE SUBSTANCE OF A MAR 16 INTERVIEW IN WHICH GONZALEZ COMMENTED ON SUCH TOPICS AS RELATIONS BETWEEN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL; THE CURRENT SPANISH POLITICAL SCENE; NATIONALISMS; AND THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

FELIPE GONZALEZ, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF SPANISH

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01700 161726Z

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) WAS ONE OF PRINCIPAL

FOCAL POINTS OF PUBLIC ATTENTION DURING MAR 13-14 MEETING
OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS. SOCIALIST-INCLINED
"DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" ON MAR 16 CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH
GONZALEZ. HIGHLIGHTS OF GONZALEZ RESPONSES ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

-- SOCIALIST SUMMIT MEETING: MEETING OPENED BRIDGE
BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND EUROPE. BY MEANS OF THIS BRIDGE,
SPAIN ALSO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND
POLITICAL LIFE OF PORTUGAL.

-- SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL: THERE IS A DIFFERENT DEGREE
OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE NORTH
AND SOUTH OF EUROPE WHICH REQUIRES DIFFERENT TACTICS
BY THE VARIOUS SOCIALIST PARTIES. BUT THERE IS A COMMON
PURPOSE WHICH CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE SOLIDARITY AND
SUPPORT OF ALL.

-- SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS: EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN
PECULIARITIES. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THE "PROGRESSIVE
FORCES" ACCEPT THE DEMOCRATIC GAME.

-- PORTUGAL AND SPAIN: THERE IS AN INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN
SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. PORTUGAL CANNOT LIVE WITH AN ANTI-
DEMOCRATIC NATION AT ITS BACK. IT NECESSARILY HAS TO
FAVOR EVOLUTION IN SPAIN TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALISM.

-- SPAIN AND THE FUTURE: THE DEATH OF FRANCO HAD THE
SAME EFFECT AS PULLING THE PLUG FROM A BOTTLE OF GAS;
THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION OF LIBERTY. BUT A DICTATORSHIP
CONTINUES TO SURVIVE WHICH DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO SOCIAL
AND POLITICAL NEEDS. THE REGIME'S FAILURE TO RESPOND
TO ECONOMIC NECESSITIES IS BECOMING EVER MORE GRAVE.
THIS IS THE DEEP SENSE OF POLITICAL CHANGE TAKING PLACE:
THERE IS A GREAT SOCIAL MOBILIZATION FOR LIBERTY; EVEN
BUSINESSMEN FIND IT NECESSARY TO SHAKE OFF THE DICTATORIAL
ATMOSPHERE. IN SHORT, THERE IS A DEEP AND GROWING
SEPARATION BETWEEN A CHANGING SOCIETY AND THE RIGID SUPERSTRUCTURE
OF THE STATE.

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01700 161726Z

-- NATIONALISMS: THE STABILIZATION OF A DEMOCRATIC
SYSTEM IN SPAIN DEPENDS UPON THE ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERALISM.
IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE BASQUE COUNTRY, CATALONIA,
GALICIA, ETC., POSSESS SUFFICIENT AUTONOMY.

-- ROLE OF MILITARY: THE MILITARY MEN RECENTLY TRIED IN
SPAIN ARE GOOD PROFESSIONALS. THE ATTITUDES WHICH LED TO
THEIR IMPRISONMENT WERE EXCLUSIVELY OF A DEMOCRATIC

CHARACTER, DEVOID OF PARTISAN POLITICAL MOTIVES. THEIR
CONVICTION HAS HAD AN ENORMOUS IMPACT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES
WHERE THESE YOUNG OFFICERS WERE HIGHLY REGARDED BECAUSE
OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES. CLEARLY THERE WILL BE A
GREAT INCREASE OF POLITICAL AWARENESS BY THE MILITARY
BECAUSE OF THE CRISIS THROUGH WHICH SPAIN IS PASSING.
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